

We claim:

1. A portable safety rail arrangement sized to be selectively mounted and removed from stake pockets in a flatbed trailer; the safety rail arrangement comprising:
  - (a) a first post having a first post base defining a first free end;
    - (i) the first post base being sized and configured for the first free end to be selectively insertable and removable from a stake pocket of a flatbed trailer;
  - (b) a second post, spaced from the first post, and having a second post base and defining a second free end;
    - (i) the second post base being sized and configured for the second free end to be selectively insertable and removable from a stake pocket of a flatbed trailer;
  - (c) a closed loop handrail secured to the first post and the second post to form an assembly; the handrail being spaced from the first post base and second post base;
    - (i) the handrail, the first post, and the second post being co-planar; and
  - (d) a retaining mechanism selectively engageable to secure the first post, second post, and handrail assembly to a flatbed trailer.
2. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - (a) a first stop lug secured to the first post adjacent to the first post base and between the first post base and the handrail; and
  - (b) a second stop lug secured to the second post adjacent to the second post base and between the second post base and the handrail.
3. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) the retaining mechanism comprises first and second pins;
    - (i) the first pin being selectively insertable and removable from an aperture through the first post base; and

- (ii) the second pin being selectively insertable and removable from an aperture through the second post base.
- 4. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) the retaining mechanism comprises a bungee cord selectively securing the handrail to a portion of the flatbed trailer.
- 5. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - (a) a plate secured to the first post and the second post at a position between the handrail and the first post base and second post base.
- 6. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) the handrail is rectangular-shaped with rounded corners.
- 7. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 6 wherein:
  - (a) the first post has a first rail end opposite of the first free end;
  - (b) the handrail has first and second parallel bars;
    - (i) the first bar being secured to the first post at the first rail end; and
    - (ii) the second bar being secured to the first post at a position between the first post base and the first rail end;
  - (b) the second post has a second rail end opposite of the second free end;
    - (i) the first bar being secured to the second post at the second rail end; and
    - (ii) the second bar being secured to the second post at a position between the second post base and the second rail end.
- 8. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 7 wherein:
  - (a) the first post and second post are spaced apart by a distance of 1.75-2.25 feet;
  - (b) the first bar of the handrail is spaced a distance of 3.5-4.5 feet from the first free end and second free end; and

- (c) the first bar and second bar of the handrail are spaced apart by a distance of 1.5-2.0 feet.
- 9. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 8 wherein:
  - (a) the first post, second post, and handrail comprise aluminum extrusions; and
  - (b) the arrangement has a weight not greater than 20 lbs.
- 10. A portable safety rail arrangement according to claim 9 wherein:
  - (a) the retaining mechanism comprises first and second pins;
    - (i) the first pin being selectively insertable and removable from an aperture through the first post base;
    - (ii) the second pin being selectively insertable and removable from an aperture through the second post base.
- 11. A flatbed trailer comprising:
  - (a) a wheel-supported deck having a frame; the frame defining a plurality of spaced stake pockets; and
  - (b) at least one safety rail arrangement being selectively mountable and removable from the stake pockets; the safety rail arrangement comprising:
    - (i) a first post having a first post base defining a first free end;
      - (A) the first post base being sized and configured for the first free end to be selectively insertable and removable from one of the stake pockets;
    - (ii) a second post, spaced from the first post, and having a second post base and defining a second free end;
      - (A) the second post base being sized and configured for the second free end to be selectively insertable and removable from another one of the stake pockets;

- (iii) a closed loop handrail secured to the first post and the second post to form an assembly; the handrail being spaced from the first post base and second post base;
  - (A) the handrail, the first post, and the second post being coplanar; and
- (iv) a retaining mechanism selectively engageable to secure the first post, second post, and handrail assembly to the frame.

12. A flatbed trailer according to claim 11 wherein:

- (a) the safety rail arrangement further includes:
  - (i) a first stop lug secured to the first post adjacent to the first post base and between the first post base and the handrail;
    - (A) the first stop lug engaging the frame and preventing the first post from slipping through the respective stake pocket;
  - (i) a second stop lug secured to the second post adjacent to the second post base and between the second post base and the handrail;
    - (B) the second stop lug engaging the frame and preventing the second post from slipping through the respective stake pocket.

13. A flatbed trailer according to claim 12 wherein:

- (a) the retaining mechanism includes first and second pins;
  - (i) the first pin being selectively insertable and removable from an aperture through the first post base;
    - (A) the frame being between the first stop lug and the first pin;
  - (ii) the second pin being selectively insertable and removable from an aperture through the second post base;
    - (A) the frame being between the second stop lug and the second pin.

14. A flatbed trailer according to claim 11 wherein:

- (a) the retaining mechanism comprises a bungee cord extending between the handrail and the frame.
15. A flatbed trailer according to claim 11 wherein:
- (a) the safety rail arrangement further includes:
    - (i) a plate secured to the first post and the second post at a position between the handrail and the first post base and second post base.
16. A flatbed trailer according to claim 11 further wherein:
- (a) the at least one safety rail arrangement includes a plurality of safety rail arrangements forming a continuous fence along the frame of the deck; each safety rail arrangement being selectively mountable and removable from respective stake pockets; each of the safety rail arrangements comprising:
    - (i) a first post having a first post base defining a first free end;
      - (A) the first post base being sized and configured for the first free end to be selectively insertable and removable from one of the stake pockets;
    - (ii) a second post, spaced from the first post, and having a second post base and defining a second free end;
      - (A) the second post base being sized and configured for the second free end to be selectively insertable and removable from another one of the stake pockets;
    - (iii) a closed loop handrail secured to the first post and the second post to form an assembly; the handrail being spaced from the first post base and second post base;
      - (A) the handrail, the first post, and the second post being coplanar; and
    - (iv) a retaining mechanism selectively engageable to secure the first post, second post, and handrail assembly to the frame.

17. A method for providing a safety arrangement for a flatbed trailer; the trailer having a plurality of stake pockets; the method comprising:
- (a) mounting a single-piece safety rail onto the flatbed trailer by inserting a first post into one stake pocket and a second post into a second stake pocket until stop lugs on the safety rail engage a portion of the flatbed trailer;
    - (i) the safety rail including a closed loop handrail secured to the first post and the second post;
    - (ii) the handrail, the first post, and the second post being co-planar; and
  - (b) releasably fastening the safety rail to the flatbed trailer.
18. A method according to claim 17 wherein:
- (a) the step of releasably fastening includes inserting a pin into each of the first post and second post.
19. A method according to claim 17 wherein:
- (a) the step of releasably fastening includes attaching a bungee cord to the safety rail and the flatbed trailer.
20. A method according to claim 17 further comprising:
- (a) mounting a plurality of single-piece safety rails onto the flatbed trailer to form a fence around an edge of the flatbed; each of the single-piece safety rails being mounted by inserting a respective first post into one stake pocket and a respective second post into a second stake pocket until stop lugs on each respective safety rail engage a portion of the flatbed trailer;
    - (i) each of the safety rails including a closed loop handrail secured to a respective first post and second post;
    - (ii) the handrail, the first post, and the second post of each respective safety rail being co-planar; and
  - (b) releasably fastening each of the safety rails to the flatbed trailer.